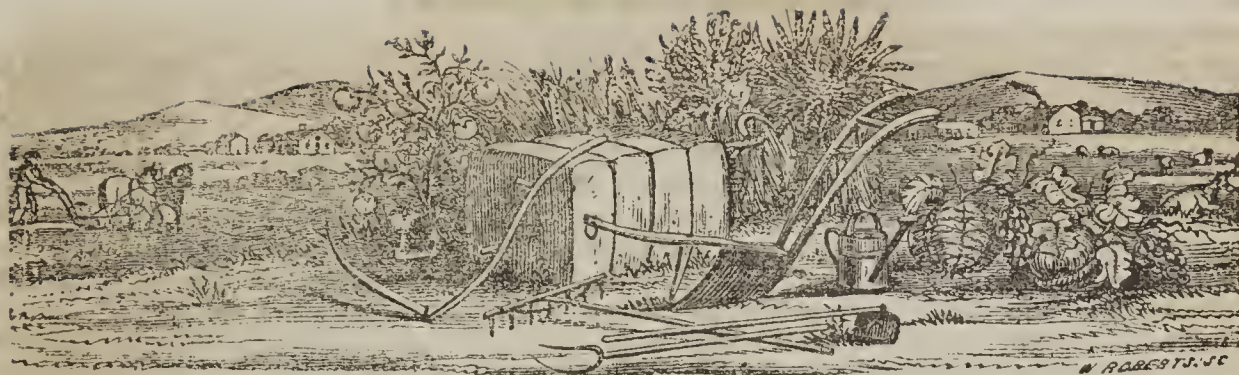


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THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. VII.

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From the N. C. Cultivator.

On the Accumulation, Preparation and Application of Stock-yard and Stable Manure.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 123.)

The manure should be guarded against the direct influence of rains, by being kept in compact heaps so as to expose as little surface as possible. A further precaution might be used by removing the manure as soon as it is in fit condition to the fields, for which it is destined, and there spreading it; this would check any remaining disposition to ferment, and the rains would only carry the ammonia into the soil, with which it would combine, and thus all danger, to any considerable extent, would be avoided. If manure is suffered to undergo complete decomposition, there will be a great saving in hauling and spreading, but a great loss of some of its most valuable ingredients. If proper

precautions are used to prevent the escape of ammonia, perhaps upon the whole it is most advantageous to permit it to undergo partial decomposition before its removal to the fields for which it is intended. Ammonia readily combines with carbonic acid, forming a volatile compound, and is itself, while in a gaseous form, with all its volatile compounds, extremely soluble in water, and hence every particle of water evaporating from a dung heap will carry with it ammonia and carbonic acid unless they are united in a salt which is not volatile. Alumina or clay exercises an indirect influence on vegetation, by its power of attracting and retaining ammonia; a part only of the carbonate of ammonia which is conveyed by rain to the soil, is received by plants because a certain part is volatilized with the vapor of water. But if the soil contains a due proportion of gypsum, the carbonate of ammonia held by the rain water and that which is carried into the soil by rains falling on putrescent manures, is decomposed by the gypsum, soluble sulphate of ammonia and carbonate of lime are formed, and this salt of ammonia not being volatile is retained in the soil. All the gypsum gradually disappears, but its action on the carbonate of ammonia continues as long as a trace of it exist. It will be observed from this reasoning of Liebig that the ammonia which the soil receives from the decomposition of long manure, is also liable to sustain a loss by combining with water and passing off in the form of vapor. But, as in this case, the progress of fermentation is very slow, the carbonate of ammonia will have more time to combine with the soil and the roots of plants are constantly absorbing it. During slow fermentation there is probably but little loss of carbonate of ammonia, even when gypsum is not present; and when present, none at all. So far as the products of the soil can be left on the ground, that will be the most economical application of manure, the labor of transporting and applying, and the loss by evaporation will be saved. Thus it will be more advantageous to leave upon the ground as

much of the stubble of wheat, &c., as is consistent with economy, and the uses to which these substances may be applied. Of course a great regard must be had to a variety of circumstances, as the distance these same substances when converted into manure, would be hauled before application, the number of stock, &c., and the benefit they would derive if this stubble were finely cut up and passed through their bodies. A great gain on the other hand to be derived from the protection the earth receives from the too ardent glare of the sun, by being "mulched," as it is called, and on the other hand some consideration is due to the fact, that fields thus protected are the chosen harbors and nests of various insects, which lie in wait until the genial spring calls them forth to their work of destruction.

All these substances will undergo slow fermentation, and if not washed away will yield much carbonate of ammonia, and some potash to the earth. The ammonia evolved from manure is imbibed by the soil, either in solution or in the gaseous form, and plants thus receive a larger portion of nitrogen than is supplied by the atmosphere. Indian corn, as well as other crops, is sometimes fed off the field by stock, and it is obvious that by this mode the whole product is restored to the soil, and the land must necessarily be enriched in proportion to the quantity of nourishing ingredients, which the growing crop received from the atmosphere, with such abatement only as will equal the loss of ammonia by evaporation. Liebig states that urine, such as that with which the solid excrements are mingled, contains the greatest part of its ammonia in the shape of salts, which have completely lost their volatility; when presented in this condition not the smallest portion is lost to plants; it is all dissolved by water and imbibed by their roots.

The dung of animals is the oldest, best known and most extensively used of any species of manure; it is spoken of in the Bible as being in common use, both for fertilizing the soil and also as fuel, and is also mentioned by all the early Greek and Roman writers on agriculture.

Horse Manure.—Although the horse feeds exclusively on vegetable food, there is a great deal of difference between the manure produced from feeding him on the succulent grass of the pasture and when confined to the dry hay and nutritious grain of the stable. It is much hotter in its nature than that of the cow, heats sooner and evolves more ammonia, not merely because it contains less water, but because it is generally richer in those organic compounds of which nitrogen forms apart. Even when their food is the same, the dung of the horse will be much richer than that of the cow, because of the greater proportion of the latter, which is discharged in the large quantity of urine it is in the habit of voiding. It begins to heat and ferment in a short time, and according to some authors, loses nearly half its weight in three weeks. On account of its rapid fermentation and consequent loss of volatile matter, it should be mixed as soon as possible with charcoal, peat, sawdust or earth, rich in vegetable matter, and be sprinkled with gypsum, dilute

sulphuric acid, or copperas. For the same reason it ought to be spread and plowed into the soil before any fermentation takes place, unless mixed to form composts; from its tendency to ferment and develop heat, it is admirably adapted to all composts. According to Boussingault's analysis, fresh horse dung in a dry state, contains 27-10 per cent. of nitrogen: when fermented it contains only 1 per cent. of nitrogen, and loses nearly 9-10 of its weight. This gives some idea of the waste that attends exposure; 73 parts of this manure are considered equal to 100 parts of farm-yard manure. In exposure it heats and suffers loss by fermentation; hence it is proper early to remove it from the stable and mix it with other materials by which the volatile substances may be arrested; the colder and wetter manure of the pig will answer well for this purpose, or soil rich in vegetable matter, as peat, sawdust, charcoal, &c., or if a chemical agent be preferred, moistened by gypsum, may be sprinkled among it, or diluted sulphuric acid. The warmth of this manure admirably fits it for bringing other substances into fermentation; with peat, swamp or pond muck, sawdust, spent saw-bark, weeds, leaves, &c., it forms an excellent compost for most soils, and to those containing much inert vegetable matter, it is applied with great advantage. Great care should be observed that it be not spoiled by fire fang or burnt in the heaps, before it is used, for when so heated as to give it a white appearance, most of its value is gone. It is difficult to give it age without mixing it with other substances, when it will be suitable for land that is neither too light nor too stiff, and if buried in very cold moist land, as it comes from the stable unmixed, it has been remarked that the crop succeeded better than when applied in a state of fermentation. In order to prevent fermentation, it is well to pour over the heap occasionally soap-suds, brine, urine, &c., which will check fermentation, and add other valuable qualities.

Cow Manure ferments more slowly than that of the horse and sheep, nor does it give off much ammoniacal vapor; hence it acts more slowly, though for a longer period. The slowness of fermentation arises partly from the small quantity of nitrogen, and partly from the fact that the food of the cow is less perfectly masticated than that of the horse. By exposure to the air it undergoes a sensible loss, amounting to near 1-5. Although the comparatively slow fermentation of cow-dung fits it better for the treading among the straw in the open farm yards, the serious loss which it ultimately undergoes will satisfy any economist that the more effectually he can keep it covered up, or the sooner he can gather the mixed dung and straw into heaps, the greater will be the proportion of its valuable properties which he will be able to retain. Fat cattle yield better manure than lean ones, or cows in milk; in the former the phosphates go to nourish and build up the horns and bones, while in milch kine they pass into the milk.

Hog Manure is very rich, but is characterized by an extremely unpleasant odor, which it communicates to those root crops on which it

may be used; it is colder and less inclined to ferment than that of the cow, and should be combined into composts. Feeding as these animals do, partly on vegetable and partly on animal food, it is much richer than that of any animal which feeds on vegetables only. It is of a cold saponaceous substance, so that among the poor in some countries it is used as soap. Boussingault estimates that 63 1-2 parts are equal to 100 of farm yard manure; it is excellent for hemp, hops, beans, corn, &c., but it is best to employ it as compost for grain; no other method is better, for it does not ferment and mellow so well in the earth when used alone, as when mixed with the dung of the cattle and horses, and it is so rich and stimulating that it is difficult to spread it thin enough by itself. No manure yields its virtues so readily, or loses them so soon by improper management; the time of applying it to the land should be carefully regarded, for a slight rain will wash it off entirely, while a dry windy day will evaporate its efficacy. Being a strong manure, the best purpose is served by mixing it with a large proportion of peat, mould, swamp mud, leaves or straw and other matters, which will easily decompose. It is almost incredible how large a quantity of excellent manure can be obtained by supplying the pig yard with an abundance of these substances to be worked over and incorporated by the swine. Land is sometimes sown with clover and peas, with the double object of feeding them off in a green state on the field by the swine which are allowed to run loose, and of enriching the soil by their droppings.

Sheep Manure is richer and more fermentable than that of the cow, and is most beneficial in soils containing much vegetable matter, which absorb the volatile matters that would otherwise pass off during fermentation. A sub-soil abounding in clay, loam, mould or decayed vegetable matter has the power of absorbing and retaining everything which can serve as manure; this action is not at all the same with filtration, as a subsoil composed of sand and gravel does not possess this property, but allows most of the fertilizing materials to enter the earth beyond the reach of plants.

The manure of pigeons is valuable for flax crops, for which it is held in high esteem in Europe. Like most others, it loses much of its value if allowed to ferment without the mixture necessary to retain its volatile elements; the principal advantage in its use, of course depending on the amount of ammonia and phosphates it may contain. The manure of hens and other domestic fowls, though much too valuable for gardening purposes to be neglected, is not so much so as that of pigeons.

The urine of men and animals is one of the most valuable and most neglected of manures—that of the cow and hog contains more solid, soluble matter than that of any other domestic animal. In its recent state, it is generally unfavorable to vegetation, and most beneficial after fermentation has fairly commenced; its efficacy is due to the large quantity of urea, ammonia, phosphates, and consequently nitrogen. Decomposition is attended with a diminution

of urea and an increase of ammonia, it should be fermented in tight vessels to prevent the escape of volatile matters; it is proper to use gypsum, sulphate of iron, or diluted sulphuric acid to fix the ammonia; vegetable mould is equally effective, and more economical. It is stated that in Sweden, so highly is the urine of their cows valued that they are trained to deposit it in vessels set for the purpose.

Of the other refuse matters generally found near our plantations.—Tanbark decays slowly, and best fermented by mixing it with lime or farm yard manure as a compost. Soot has some value. Cotton seed and oil cakes when they can be used for manure, should be sowed and plowed in or heaped with lime. Charcoal is an absorbent used to destroy offensive odors; its operation on the soil is not so direct as that of some other manures; that is, it is not so useful on account of any element which it furnishes to plants, as by its intermediate office of absorbing and retaining those volatile matters which plants require; it is beneficial as a top dressing, and in composts; its antiseptic qualities are very beneficial to young and tender plants, by keeping the soil free of putrefying substances, which would otherwise destroy the spongioles and prevent their growth. Cider cake is valuable when its acidity is neutralized by composting with lime. Peat is beneficial to soils deficient in organic matter; it decomposes slowly, if sour or applied alone to a wet soil containing little lime; its action when properly decomposed and prepared is the same as that of other vegetable substances; it contains more or less mineral and gaseous substances, which have their own peculiar action, but do not affect its character as a vegetable manure. On account of its slowness in decay, it should be mixed with lime, gypsum, wood ashes, or some matter which decomposes rapidly, as farm yard manure.

(CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.)

Wine Culture in Ohio.

From "*The Culture of the Grape, and Wine Making*," a work published in 1854, by Robert Buchanan, Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, and for sale at the office of the Farmer, we gather the following facts:—*American Farmer*.

WINE CELLARS AND HOUSES.—Within the last two years the interest of the producer has been greatly advanced, by the construction of large wine cellars in Cincinnati, and the establishment of regular wine houses, conducted by dealers of ample capital. This will insure a fair market for the product of our vineyards, and presents a flattering prospect in future for the cultivator.

Mr Longworth, has two wine cellars, and is interested in a third. His capital invested in this business is over \$100,000. Last year 75,000 bottles of Sparkling Catawba were prepared at his cellars—the year previous, 60,000—(this last is now ready for sale.) During the coming season, he expects to have ten thousand bottles prepared. The sparkling wines require from fifteen to twenty months to ripen, before being ready for market. He has also

dry and sweet wines for his cellars."

G. & P. Bogen, bottled last year 26,000, and expect to put up 35,000 this year of Sparkling Catawba.

"Zimmerman & Co. intend to put up 60 to 80,000 bottles of still wine this year, (1854) and to give their entire attention to that class of wines."

Corneau & Sons prepare both Sparkling and Still wines. Their sales, last year, amounted to over 10,000 bottles, and their business is rapidly on the increase."

"Dr. L. Rhefuss has an excellent cellar, and is preparing still wines with great care, principally from his own vineyard."

"T. H. Yeatman is arranging to make Sparkling wines. He has, heretofore, only made Still wines."

"Mr. Miller near this city, [Cincinnati], also makes Sparkling Catawba."

Upon the prospects in anticipation for the vine growers and wine merchants, Mr. Buchanan remarks on the above:

"It is encouraging to the producer as well as the wine merchant to know that the demand for their wines, particularly the Sparkling Catawba, has lately increased beyond all calculations; they can scarcely be prepared fast enough to meet the market. There is no reason to believe that the consumption will diminish, for the wines become popular wherever introduced. And yet we are just beginning to learn how to make them. This looks well for the future.

NUMBER OF ACRES IN CULTIVATION—Some two years ago, the Horticultural Society of Cincinnati appointed a committee, of which Dr. Mosher, was chairman, to take a statistical account of the vineyards in this vicinity.

The following is the result:

Number of acres in vineyard culture [in 1852] within a circle of twenty miles around Cincinnati, 1,500—under charge of 295 proprietors and tenants. Of this Mr. Longworth owns 122½ acres cultivated by 27 tenants.

At the low estimate of \$200 per acre for the cost of planting, &c., this would amount to \$240,000, exclusive of the value of the land; and when in full bearing, produce at the most moderate estimate, for a series of years, (of 200 gallons to the acre). 240,000 gallons of wine annually; but in good seasons, much more.

The number of acres now in bearing is a little over 740. The average distance in the rows is 3 by 6 feet, making 24,20 to the acre.

The average product to the acre in 1848, was about 300 gallons from near 280 acres then in bearing, and in 1849, (the worst year for rot that has yet been known), about 100 gallons to the acre, from some 360 acres. New vineyards produce 200 to 250 gallons, but the old only 50 to 100; and the crops of a few were entirely destroyed by the rot."

In the year 1846, Mr. Rentz, at his vineyard 4 miles from Cincinnati, made 1,300 gallons of wine.

Toads are the best protection of cabbage against lice.

Plants, when drooping, are revived by a few grains of camphor.

From the Soil of the South.

Measles in Hogs.

MR. EDITOR: Can you gain information for me, from some of your many correspondents, what will cure Measles in Hogs? I have a beautiful Suffolk pig, affected with that disease and I do not know what will relieve him.

Respectfully, yours,

RICHARD L. NORTH.

Rantules, S. C., April, 1856.

Plunge ears of corn in soft tar, and feed to your pig.—Ed. F. & P.

BUSH YOUR TOMATOES.—It is just as sensible to grow peas without bushing them as it is tomatoes. You may grow both in a slovenly sort of way, if you have plenty of room on the ground; but you can grow either twice as well upon something to support them, and tomatoes are decidedly better grown up in the air than near the ground, under the shade of a mass of vines. The best support for a tomato vine is a short bush set firmly in the ground. The branches have room to spread among the limbs and support the fruit. The plan is much better than tying to stakes and trimming, according to our experience. We have tried both ways.—*Agricultural Exchange.*

From the Tennessee Farmer and Mechanic.

The Value and Importance of Agricultural Papers.

While contemplating the immense and incalculable benefits which must necessarily result, not only to the farmer and planter, but to the public in general, and to every class of the community, in whatever occupation engaged, from the general improvement of agriculture, and the powerful tendency of agricultural papers to produce such improvement, the man of reflection, who loves his country, and who feels any regard for the happiness of his fellow-men, cannot but be struck with astonishment, not only at beholding so many of those who are devoted to the profession of agriculture, and who are entirely dependent on it for the supply of all their wants, voluntarily debarring themselves from the easiest, the most agreeable, the cheapest, and the most effectual mode of acquiring knowledge in their profession, but at the short-sighted views of those who are obviously not less deeply interested than the farmer himself in producing that state of improvement on the accomplishment of which the prosperity of all is alike dependent. Let every man but ask himself what would be the effect on the public prosperity, and on that of every individual of which society is composed, whatever may be his occupation, were the fertility of the land and the quantum of his annual produc-

tion to be doubled, trebled, or quadrupled? All must see, at a glance, that the national wealth and resources would be in the same degree enhanced. The Government would be enabled, with far less inconvenience to the people, to raise double, treble, or quadruple the revenue which can now be collected, either for the purpose of defending the country against foreign enemies, improving it by roads, canals, etc., or for what is of still greater importance than either, the establishing and sustaining a system of universal education, by which alone, liberty can be perpetuated, the people elevated to that dignity and worth of which they are capable, and which it should be the duty of every republican government to confer. The farmer and planter would be benefitted by receiving a double, a treble, or a quadruple reward for his labor, to be expended in supplying his wants, increasing his wealth, or promoting his comfort. The merchant, the lawyer and mechanic would be benefitted by a double, treble, or quadruple ability in their customers to purchase their goods or to reward them for their services; and, above all, the laborer of every description would be benefitted by constant employment and good wages, paid in ready money. In a word, universal prosperity would overflow the land, and universal intelligence and increased virtue would enable and dispose the people to use it, as to banish from the country by far the larger portion of all that misery and distress under which mankind in all ages and countries have heretofore groaned, and must continue to be their lamentable lot, until by an elevation of the intellectual and moral character of the mass of the people, they shall be qualified so to improve the resources which a benignant Providence has placed at their command as to enable every one, by moderate labor, to acquire the necessities and comforts of life. That such would be the ultimate effects of doubling, trebling or quadrupling the products of the earth by the industrious exertions of the agricultural community, if guided and directed by intelligence, is too plain to require proof. Would the general circulation of agricultural papers, by diffusing agricultural knowledge, and by continually presenting to the mind of the agriculturist clear, unequivocal, and demonstrative proof that great and ample rewards are the sure and certain consequences of such exertions, have a tendency to stimulate the community to active and intelligent exertion? He who doubts of this must believe the gross and palpable absurdity that the greater the knowl-

edge a man possesses of the business in which he is engaged, the more will he be disqualified to pursue it with advantage, and that the more clearly and distinctly the prospect of reward for his labor is held out to the farmer, the greater will be his indolence. With those who can believe these propositions, if any such there be, it would be vain and idle to reason: they can believe any thing which they wish: their error proceeds, not from the head, but from the heart: what they want is not the capacity, but the inclination to discover truth. To all others, of whatever character or occupation, we would say, if you believe that agricultural improvement would be thus beneficial to your country, conducive to the best interests of yourselves and your fellow-citizens of every class and description, and that the wide and general circulation of agricultural papers would have a tendency to produce that improvement, do not patriotism, philanthropy, and an enlightened regard to your own interest, all conspire to demand that you should exert yourselves by every means in your power, by your example, by your exhortations, by your instructions, and by your influence, to extend as widely as possible, the circulation of papers entirely devoted to the diffusion of agricultural knowledge and the production of agricultural improvement; papers whose influence, while it may be productive of such incalculable good, can by no possibility be injurious to any human being? We ask you, calmly soberly, and deliberately, to consider this subject, and then to act in such a manner as reason, conscience, patriotism, and an enlightened regard to your own interest shall dictate. For ourselves, we entertain not a particle of doubt that were some well-conducted agricultural paper generally circulated and read in every neighborhood in the United States, its salutary influence would, in a few years, be clearly exhibited in the intellectual and moral improvement of the people, in the increase of the national wealth and resources, and in the increased happiness and prosperity of all classes of the community. To the production of such results we are not only willing, but desirous of contributing our utmost exertions, and it is therefore that we solicit all those who have it in their power, by the communication of agricultural knowledge, and by their exertions in promoting its diffusion to the widest practicable extent, to afford us their aid and co-operation. On that aid and co-operation we are fully sensible must the success of ours and of all similar efforts in a great degree depend.

Radishes.

"The following condemnation of Radishes, we take from the "Soil of the South." The Horticultural Editor is out upon this vile root, and we feel much disposed to "back him," judging from their effects on our digestive apparatus, which we must admit, however, is not equal to that of an "Ostrich or Alligator," which, it is said, will reduce a brickbat or a pine knot. Many persons are very fond of Radishes, and devour them raw with seeming impunity. A raw turnip with us is not much more safe than a Radish.—Ed. F. & P.

We are frequently taken to task for the war we have waged upon this worse than worthless vegetable. For fifteen years, we have not permitted one to grow in our garden, or to disgrace our table, and we have found the advantage of pursuing this course, in the improved health of our family. Man is the only animal that will eat a radish, either raw or cooked. The sagacious hog will starve before he will eat the poisonous trash. Crude radishes are the most indigestible food that can be taken into the human stomach, independent of the acrid, poisonous substance they contain. But they do not hurt me, exclaims one, I can eat them with impunity! and with a relish. But, dear reader, do you not have the head ache, or a bad breath? Have you no doctor's bills to pay? A radish eaten in the spring may cause a fever in the fall. If any one doubts the poisonous qualities of radishes, let them cut them in thin slices, three or four, and soak the slices in water for twelve hours, and then taste the water. Our word for it, they will never taste another radish. As a watchman upon the horticultural watchtower, we cannot commend the culture of a vegetable that we *know* to be injurious.

A Horse with the Heaves.

I tried all sorts of heave powders on my patient, with no effect whatever. It is said that in a limestone country this disease is unknown, and lime water was prescribed with no apparent advantage. Some one told me to give the horse ginger, and strange to tell, I found that a tablespoonful of ginger given to the "General" with his oats, would cure him for the day, in half an hour after he had eaten it; but on giving it daily, the effect soon ceased. It is a jockey's remedy, and will last long enough to swap upon. Finally, I was advised to cut my horses' fodder and give it always wet. I pursued that course carefully, keeping the "General" tied with so short a halter that he could not eat his bedding, giving him chopped hay and meal three times a day, and never more than a bucket of water at a time.

He improved rapidly. I have kept him five years, making him a *factotum*—carriage horse, saddle horse, plow and cart horse—and he bids fair to remain useful for five years to come.

Kept in this way, his disease does not lessen his value for speed or labor, a single dollar. When the boys grow careless, and give him dry hay, he informs me of it in a few days by the peculiar cough I have mentioned; but sometimes, for six months together, no indication of disease is visible, and he would pass for a sound horse with the most knowing in such matters. There is no doubt that clover hay, probably because of its dust, often induces the heaves. Stable keepers with us, refuse it altogether for this reason.

Many suppose that the wind of the horse is affected by the heaves, so that fast driving at any time will, as we express it, put him out of breath. With my horse, it is not so.

When the "General" was at the worst, rapid driving, when just from the stable, would increase his difficulty, but a mile or two of moderate exercise would dissipate the symptoms entirely. We have, occasionally, what are called *wind-broken* horses, which are nearly worthless for want of wind. They can never be driven rapidly without great distress, and frequently give out entirely by a few miles' driving. This is thought to be a different disease. The "General's" case is, I suppose, a fair example of the heaves.

I have no doubt that regular feeding with chopped and wet fodder, and exclusion of dust from hay fed to other animals in the same stable, would render many horses now deemed almost worthless, and which manifestly endure great suffering, equally valuable for most purposes, with those that are sound.—*Exchange.*

From the American Farmer.

"The Hog"—An Essay."

I was quite interested in the Essay on the Hog, in your February number. Much information was imparted, and some that I deem important, and should be generally understood, was omitted.

"Males and females should not breed until 12 months old." Excellent advice. It is too much the practice to let a young sow have a litter by the time she is 12 or 15 months old, and then kill her.

This is decidedly wrong. Those who desire fine pigs, should keep one or more breeding sows (according to the size of the farm or stock they intend to raise). After two or three litters they generally improve as *mothers*. They are large and roomy; they bring much larger, *stronger* and *more* pigs at a litter, than a year old sow. They nurse their pigs well, take more care of them, have a better supply of milk, and pigs from a two, three, or five year old sow will grow twice as fast, and be twice the size at four weeks old, of those from a young sow.

A large old breeding sow is worth as much

as a good cow to a farmer, and will net him as much and more with less labor. She will have certainly two litters a year, or five in two years, and will average 10 at a litter after the third or fourth litter; and as good pigs will bring \$2 each, or \$40 a year, it is more than a cow will produce.

I say, don't kill old sows. Remember they are good nurses and experienced mothers. It is the wild and reckless sows that kill the pigs. When a sow litters she should not have too much straw, and what is furnished should be very clean, and *short* cut straw is the best; but dry, clean leaves from the woods is still better.

Those who keep a large boar and large sows for breeding find their gain in it; and those who have not tried it, and will do so, will find it to their advantage. Such is the experience of one who has tried it, and the result was highly satisfactory. J. C. T.

From the American Farmer.

Cisterns---Cure for Scratches and Mange.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER:—Knowing your readiness to impart information, I will make a little inquiry, and if you, or any of your correspondents, can respond, it may possibly be as interesting to some others as myself.

I have heard that some persons build cisterns in and on their houses. I have a very good place in a building attached to my house for a cistern. We build all our cisterns of cement, in less exposed situations, but am afraid the expansion occasioned by freezing, in an exposed situation, would burst it. I have sometimes thought of Gutta Percha, but am not acquainted with the nature and cost of the article.

Before I close, I write two things yet; one is a certain cure for scratches on horses, and the other, to cure mange on pigs; I have tried both, and can vouch for their efficacy.

For scratches, wash the parts affected with beef brine, and three or four daily applications will effect a cure, even in the worst cases.

For mange, use the German Cattle Powders, put a half or a whole paper in the swill barrel, according to the size of the barrel, and a complete cure will be effected in two weeks, provided they are kept clean and dry.

Very respectfully, your friend,

DAVID RINEHART.

NOTE.—We are not aware that Gutta Percha has been or can be applied to this purpose. Its elastic qualities have been stretched, however, to all sorts of uses. We suppose there is always more or less risk in having cisterns on or near the top of a house. We have known a new house, built for his own use by an intelligent master mechanic, very seriously damaged by the bursting of the water pipes.—EDS. AMERICAN FARMER.

From the Soil of the South.

Peach Grafting.

MR. EDITOR:—Have you some young seedling peach trees about your yard or garden? If

so, select a pen from some choice peach, two or three buds long; trim it to a wedge form; then cut off one of these young seedlings a little below the surface of the ground; split the stump down $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; then with the point of your knife, open the split, and carefully insert your wedge-shaped pen with the barks fitting on one side; with your fingers press the earth firmly against the sides of the stump, and then cover the joint and half way up the pen, with loose earth, and you are done. No bandage, no tying, no cutting off tap-root, or any such thing; for they are all *stuff* and *humbug*.

Just try a few in this way, and tell me next fall, if you have not thrifty, well formed trees, from four to seven feet high; with limbs from the ground, and filled with bloom buds.

I may at the proper season give my mode (*well tried*) of budding, and summer grafting. Success to your efforts.

Yours, respectfully,

MARTIN RICHARDS.

For the Farmer and Planter.

How to Get a Stand of Cotton.

MR. EDITOR:—About three years out of five there is great complaint among the farmers of their stands of cotton. The blame is imputed to the seasons, of course. We do not pretend to deny that the seasons may justly be the cause *sometimes*; but nine times out of ten it is the fault of the planter. The lands are not properly prepared, and the seed are not put in right. To get cotton up at the proper time, is a matter of the greatest importance in this latitude, where the seasons are so short. The cotton plant here is very delicate, and easily impeded in making its egress through the earth, and consequently requires a thorough and garden-like preparation of the soil to insure a good stand, and to make a *good crop*.

Since I have pursued the course, I shall make known to you my stands have been almost perfect. Prepare early and thoroughly, plant not later, under any circumstances, than the *fifth* of April, put in plenty of sound, selected seed, previously well rubbed in ashes, plant shallow, cover carefully with light iron rakes. This is not so slow a mode as may be supposed. A good hand, in well prepared land, will cover from two and a half to three acres per day. As soon as it is covered, run a roller over the beds; it breaks down the inequalities of the ridge, prevents evaporation, brings the earth in close contact with the seed, pulverizes the earth directly around the plant, accelerates germination, causes the plant to come up and grow off with vigor, facilitates the first hoeing, and excludes somewhat the cold.

The roller is a simple implement. To make it, cut down a round pine, 15 or 16 inches in di-

umeter, cut it off 4 feet long, if the rows are not over 3 feet wide, peel the bark off, get two white-oak saplings for shafts, frame them to the roller with two cross braces, one before, and one behind, to the front one attach the swingle-tree, and it is done. Worth to make it, about one dollar and a half. If thought proper, a seat may be placed on the shafts over the roller, for the driver, and should be done if the roller should become too light after seasoning, or if with the driver's weight it should be too light, a box can easily be put on and filled with rocks. This roller will be found of vast benefit to the light, sandy soils. This roller will be found useful for the garden and patches. In rolling the cotton beds, the mule walks in middle of the rows, and finishes two rows at once. Any little fellow can drive—all the guiding necessary is to keep the mule in the middle of the rows. I understand that it is thought by one of the neighbors that the above mode of culture *won't pay*—that to pay, the cotton would have to bring two prices. All I have to say about it is, that I think if this neighbor will try to make cotton on the rough hills of Pickens, he will soon find that the usual rough mode does not pay as well.

J. W. CRAWFORD.

Cold Springs, May 17, 1856.

For the Farmer and Planter.
Cotton Culture Again.

MR. EDITOR:—The cultivation of cotton differs, to some extent, in every section of our land, and good crops are made by planters under every plan pursued. Yet, it seems there are way marks all along which point to the principle to be pursued. All admit that very early planting subjects the plant to many disasters, not the least sore shin and lice, for occasionally a frost takes it by the board; yet all who strive for a large crop, take the risk, and plant early. The weed does not grow off, and does not make all year the same size. Again, those who make large per hand crops, so far as I know, do not use two horse plows for cotton, except in such lands as are stiff, and very many do not break up the land under two first furrows; besides, these, in some parts, use the turn plow exclusively, and thus turn up the young roots. Again, topping is thought by many to add about one-tenth to the product. Capt. Thomas, who was a very successful planter in Fairfield Dist., some 30 years ago, assured me he had topped all cotton, large or small, for 20 or more years, and always with an advantage. Again, other successful planters throw up high

beds, and even re-bed the next year on the same bed, thus dwarfing the cotton plant.

We all know the season is never too dry for cotton to grow and make a crop. Without searching for other way marks, I would earnestly ask, if we have not enough to point out the course and direction?

It is true, we are pointed to our friend ———, who uses freely of Guano, and plows as deep as he can; but I ask, is here an exception? His land requires say, 10 to 12 dollars worth of Guano to grow some 1600 lbs. of seed cotton, he uses the flat sweep, or buzzard wing, but his plants need all that to obtain size enough to bear 1600 lbs.; and besides, Guano does not tend so much to enlarge stalk. There are exceptions, it is very true, and abundant. But is there no exception to the correct rule of making corn? I presume the intelligent, successful corn planters agree that very deep tilth, manure and superficial culture is the plan, although there are those who contend for deep plowing when in cultivation, avering that corn roots have been found 4 feet deep. This is a knock down argument, as was my friend's, when proving that New Jersey was a miserable poor State, avering that the roots of trees ran on top of the ground sometimes 50 yards, picking up the crumbs all about.

Cotton should not receive great changes; many old planters hold that working every three weeks is enough; over working stimulates the plant to over growth, and casting its young fruit. This is done by cutting roots too freely, as cotton will wilt thereafter.

It is very questionable with me, whether we pursue the right plan at first working. When cotton is so young, it might be pushed forward by a light coultering, whereas it always receives a backset from scraping. Scraping seems to be the only plan generally approved to clean the crop, for if the grass of April and May be not thoroughly cleaned off in May, ere the first of July, there will be hard work, and a loss in stand. This may be remedied by scraping clean and dirting the same day.

These hints are offered to elicit thought and experiment. Will your Society take this matter up, and investigate by experiment?

Yours, with respect, &c.,

A FRIEND.

Pears are generally improved by grafting on the mountain ash.

Sulphur is valuable in preserving grapes, &c., from insects.

Lard never spoils in warm weather, if it is cooked enough in frying out.

For the Farmer and Planter.

The Orchard.

In filling it out, a little care and skill is proper to make a good selection of the various kinds of fruit trees that do well in the climate and soil of the South; give room to none but the best, and put them in the kind of soil which experiment has taught the best suited to their growth.

In speaking of fruit trees, &c., we shall use (as Sol. Smith intimated about drugs,) only christian names to express our suggestions.

It should be our aim to fill our orchard with all the different kinds of fruit trees that do well in our climate and soil; and we may, by a little prudent management, grow some kinds of fruit which are not peculiar to our climate.

Cherry trees do best near yards, in a rich soil. They need no cultivating further than to keep the ground clear of weeds where they grow. Cherries are a healthy fruit, well worth the room the trees occupy. We wonder they are not more extensively grown in the South, as almost everybody relish them when well matured, and scarcely any trouble to raise them.

The Pear tree is best grown in a pasture field, which is very seldom cultivated with the plow; and in fact, all fruit trees do best on such lands, except the peach tree, if stock can be prevented from barking the trees, and destroying the branches. Pear trees require a moderately rich soil to make good fruit yielders.

Peach trees do best on high and strong ground. The fruit is not near so good grown in a rich soil, as it is in one of ordinary richness, and not very deep. They need cultivating with the plow occasionally. Small grain or corn grown with them injures both the tree and its fruit materially. Whenever a diseased one is discovered, it should be removed from the orchard, and a healthy one put in its stead. When the branches become overloaded with fruit, the tree may be saved, and the size and flavor of the fruit may be much improved by thinning the peaches down to a proper quantity. The best time to prune the peach tree, is while it is in full bloom, before the leaves put out, as they receive very little, if any injury from the operation; then set the trees out late in the fall. When peaches ripen, eat them temperately, dry them profusely, and feed the hogs with what remains; but never make brandy of them, for that process spoils the flavor of the fruit, and makes it unwholesome, and has more effect on the failure of the peach crop than Jack frost.

Apple trees, to grow well, require a deep,

rich soil. Grafts are to be preferred to set out, if we wish to enjoy the best varieties of fruit. The best time to set out the trees is, late in the fall; and the best time to prune is, in warm weather, when there is the least flow of sap in the trees. There seems to be a good deal of difficulty experienced in getting a good and healthy apple orchard. We have noticed many plans suggested for accomplishing this purpose, but the only thorough and successful experiment in curing diseased apple trees we have yet known, was made by Jubilee Chitwood, and come under the writer's own knowledge. He informed the writer that the first attempts to rear an apple orchard, which he made, were almost failures—that his trees were dwarfish, scabby, and covered with moss and vermin—the fruit small, hard and unfit for use—but among these diseased ones he noticed here and there a chance tree, perfect, sound and thriving, maturing its fruit well; and from this circumstance he came to the conclusion that the dwarfishness and disease of most of his apple trees, with their half-matured fruit, originated, not from a defect in either the soil or climate, but from a defect in some other department; and he commenced removing the diseased trees, and supplying their places in the orchard with grafts from his sound trees. His experiment was crowned with success, and a fine orchard of thriving trees was the result, free from scabs, moss, or vermin, maturing their fruit well. He shewed the writer a few trees of the old stand, which he had left as monuments of contrast. We have no doubt but this is a remedy for diseased apple trees. Remove them, and fill up their places with healthy ones, and a fine, thriving orchard will soon follow. Apple trees, while young, need the soil under them stirred a little. Small grain sown among them injures the tree to some extent. Corn, unless it is very luxuriant, and the trees very small, does but little harm to an apple orchard.

W. L.

WARTS ON COW'S TEATS.—*Remedy.*—A correspondent writing to the Rural New-Yorker, some time since, in answer to an inquiry upon this subject says:—I have cured my cows of warty teats with the following:—Kest's foot oil, beef's gall, spirits of turpentine, old brandy, equal parts of each. Shake well before using. It is an excellent liniment, and will take off callosities of long standing. Apply it once a day.

Wild onions may be destroyed by cultivating corn, ploughing and leaving the field in its ploughed state all the winter.—*Soil of the South*

From the Working Farmer.
Home Department.

It will be seen by an article in our present number, that a Bureau of Agriculture is again being talked of at Washington; and we are sorry to find some of our cotemporaries approving of this attempted apology at supplying the wants of the farmer. The greatest interest of our country should demand and receive an organization somewhat adequate to its wants. A Department of Agriculture with a Secretary, who should be a Cabinet Officer holding even rank with the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, etc., is demanded by the farmers, and they should not accept of a sub-organization. At the early formation of our Government, its founders were anxious to organize a Home Department; and as the records will show, it was then laid aside, simply because a proper incumbent could not at that time be found as its Secretary; and the meaning of this department was then distinctly understood to be a department for the improvement and protection of Agriculture and other industrial arts. Gen. Washington afterwards recommended such an organization, and called it a Home Department of Agriculture. Since that time our farmers, who compose the great body of voters, have sent representatives to Congress, and have generally selected them from among lawyers, or men of leisure and fortune.

The requirements of the new country for a time occupied the energies of Congress; and then the habit of selecting such a class of representatives confirmed those in office, and secured the reelection of themselves, or by their influence, men of similar employment or occupation; and these Congressmen forgetting that more than four-fifths of constituents were too much engaged in agricultural pursuits to busy themselves with the affairs of Government, and preferring to leave their interests in the hands of their representatives have caused the great interests of the majority to be entirely neglected. Every other country in Christendom has such a Department; and for want of such Government countenance the farmers have not advanced in knowledge proportionably with those engaged in other interests. For want of such a Department the farmers have been amused rather than instructed, and the whole Nation has remained divided into two classes. The *poetry* of equal rights has been trumpeted to our hearts content, while the *reality* has been kept beyond our reach. To silence the feeling which was evident among farmers, a Home Department was created; but in what part of that Department do we find the Agricultural interests represented? The Commissioner of Patents and his Bureau are under the charge of the Secretary of this Department and in a cellar room of the Patent Office, for a time, we find a clerk having charge of the Agricultural portion of the Patent Office, whose business seemed to be to get up a volume, each year, made up of extracts from agricultural papers, and the special view of this clerk on a few prominent points in agriculture, or such at least as he conceived to be prominent. Indeed, this

Home Department, so far as it related to agriculture, would remind one of a theatrical performance which occurred in England some years ago. The play of Hamlet was announced, but the principal actor for being sick it was stated that the *part* of Hamlet would by a particular desire be *omitted*.

We have schools for the Army and Navy; we send Commissioners abroad to examine the tactics of other countries; and every collateral branch connected with military engineering, is fostered by Government patronage. The pupils at our military schools are taught many branches of simple and ornamental character, the more completely to fit them as soldiers and gentlemen; and so it should be. Nor do farmers complain of this, although they are the *payers* of four-fifths of the expense. But when has a Commission existed under our Government for collecting information either at home or abroad, for the use of the Agriculturists? What adequate organization has ever been made, to diffuse information on this most important subject? In what Bureau at Washington do we find an account of the organization of the Agricultural Colleges of Europe? What proportion of the public purse (four-fifths of which is furnished by farmers,) has been expended for their benefit? What part of the ten millions which has been appropriated by Congress for experiments with various scientific and mechanical devices, has been devoted to improvements in the construction of agricultural implements or improved modes of culture? Where are our Agricultural Colleges and what other civilized country is without them?

Thousands of dollars have been appropriated for improvements in the telescope, yet not one dollar for improvements in the plow. Is the surface of the moon of more consequence to those who support the Government of the United States, than the surface of the earth? Why cannot part of the public domain be given to the States for the purpose of endowing Agricultural Colleges? Why could not our foreign Consuls, Ministers, etc., be made agents for the purchase of foreign seeds of superior kinds, which might be distributed through members of Congress to their constituents? And why, instead of this, is a miserable appropriation made by Congress for the purchase of seeds from some favorite seed-dealer, and there distributed, where duplicates of home-growth are plenty? How many farmers are there in the United States, who never saw a Globe Artichoke or a Cauliflower? There are many hundred kinds of pears raised in Europe, suited to this climate, which has never been heard of by the majority of our farmers. How long has the iron plowshare been introduced into our country? and how long since its general adoption? Has not its use increased the amount of agricultural product fifty per cent? and has any other invention, or any other twelve inventions of modern times, equalled one per cent in the increase of product from its use, that can fairly be attributed to the plow? Does not England by under-draining and sub-soiling produce of many crops double the amount per acre of the average of this country? and yet

have one-third of the farmers of the United States ever seen a draught or a sub-soil plow? Could England at this time sustain her present population, without the introduction of these improvements? Would not a properly organized Home Department be able to suggest to Congress methods for remedying these evils?

Suppose that one-tenth of the amount which has been paid by Congress as premiums on new inventions connected with fire-arms, or one-tenth of the amount which has been given to mechanical inventors to enable them to perfect experiments connected with steam engines, steam boilers, locomotives, etc., had been offered as premiums for improvements in the construction of the plow, what would have been the results? Would not the ingenuity of our mechanics have been applied to this and other agricultural implements? and would not the depth of plowing have thus been increased? Who does not know that an increase of one inch in the depth of plowing through the United States, would increase the amount of our agricultural products more in value than the total present receipts of our Government? Who does not know that the general introduction of sub-soil plows would produce a similar result? And who is ignorant of the fact, that every plowing match it is clearly proved, that even slight differences in the figure of the plow enable the same team to drag it when inserted at an increased depth? Who knows the true figure of a plow so that the least amount of force may produce the greatest of disturbance in the soil? Would not trials made under the surveillance of a Department in whose organization the farmers had confidence, soon settle this and every other truth in agriculture? The very amount paid by the manufacturers of the various plows to scribblers for puffing each, would be more than sufficient, in the hands of a Home Department of Agriculture, to settle every vexed question and give the farmers the benefit of the results. Who doubts that a premium of ten thousand dollars for the best plow would call out the best ingenuity of the land, and that the improved results of a single season would pay this amount many times, beside leaving its use for future years as the permanent property of the nation? Would not such an increase of product lead to an increase of mercantile activity, and this to national wealth?

Apart from monetary considerations, we live under a government of *written law*, and we call upon our citizens to obey that law. We know that with the exception of such States and districts as have improved the modes of agriculture, the plodding farmer cannot afford to educate his children, and that until he is enabled to advantage by the improved processes of more fortunate localities, he cannot do so. The few States where education is easily obtained, must not forget that a number nearly or quite equal to one-quarter of our whole population, cannot read the very law they are called on to obey. It has been said, and with truth, that "a prosperous agricultural district is never without patriots to defend it." Let our whole country be in this position, and a

small but experienced standing army, with four times the usual number of officers, would supply us with officers in cases of emergency, while an educated agricultural community would find apt recruits who would be good soldiers if, so officered, in one month. The bald excuse, therefore, continually made in Congress, that every appropriation made for experiments in the mechanical arts, and procured by the influence of rich operators, is for the defence of the country in time of need, will as rightly apply to such an organization as will assist in educating the farmers and rendering them patriots. None other will ever make soldiers; at least such soldiers as a free government can depend upon.

We do not believe in the doctrine that farmers should be contented with a Bureau of Agriculture, and await the necessity for any other organization. The necessity is now, and has been always, apparent to those who have understood the best interest of the country. The Father of his Country, Washington, was not mistaken when he recommended such a Department as part of the original plan of our Government, and for the purpose of calling into action the best talent; advantaging from all the *clat* that belongs to a Department as compared with a Bureau, and from having an officer whose duty is to make known to our Government the wants of the agricultural interest, it should be a Department that its Secretary may be heard in the Cabinet, and not, as with a Bureau, with a Commissioner at its head whose recommendation in favor of agriculture may be stricken out by the Secretary of the Department to which he has attached, before it reaches the Legislative Halls. Why put off for a single day that which is known to be required? We hope in the discussion before Congress, on the proposed bill for an Agricultural organization, we shall not hear the hackneyed phrases that "Agriculture is a noble art," that "farmers are the bone and sinew of the country." These are truths trite to every school-boy; and farmers will not be contented with a repetition of such compliments and no further action.

Let us demand, not ask, a Department of Agriculture, and not be contented with being told that we are noble fellows, and we had better go home and vote again for our representatives at the next election. The present condition of the agricultural interest and its neglect by Government, remind us of a lieutenant in the British army, stationed in Canada. He lacked promotion, and knew he was entitled to it by age and services. He wrote to the Commander in Chief, and stated that he was the oldest lieutenant in his regiment next, that he was the oldest in the brigade; next oldest in Canada; next, oldest in the British army; to all of which he received no reply. He then wrote that he was the oldest lieutenant in the world, and he believed his Excellency meant to keep him so as a curiosity.

Indeed farmers' claims are like the position of the beggar to the London Alderman on his way to the turtle feast. "I have not eaten in four days," said the beggar. "I wish I had your

appetite," says the Alderman.

The farmer, however, will not, and need not, be as silent as the beggar. They furnish the supplies and are entitled to a portion of the disbursement. In England where the Government has no excess of public funds, millions of pounds sterling are loaned to farmers, under the surveillance of the Commissioners of drainage, for under-draining the land and these mortgages are only active after a fixed value has been placed upon the farm before its under-drainage, and still not one dollar has ever been lost by that Government from such loans. The increased production has always enabled the farmer to meet the required payments, and thus, after short time, the country at large is benefited equal to the amount of increase production. It has been said, and with truth, that were it not for the introduction of under-drains and sub-soil plows, England could not at this time sustain her population. This is no experiment, but a settled truth; and why should not the surplus funds in our Government be so invested? It could be done with us without the creation of a national debt; and the example would soon be followed by capitalists, as it has been in England.

Who doubts that by adopting a proper mode of tillage, the Indian corn or wheat crops of the United States would be double? In what country can instances not be found where individual farmers raise crops double in quantity per acre as compared with those of their neighbors? Why should these processes not be collated and made known to all?

We hope some Cincinnatus will be found among our members of Congress who will have a fellow-feeling for his craft. We hope the good sense of the present Congress will prevent their offering any compromise for the wants of the farmer, and that they will at once give us a Department of Agriculture, and not a sub-organization in the form of a Bureau or Agricultural Clerkship. If they do not, they may rest assured that the farmers will eventually rise in their strength and represent themselves in the Legislative hall with special reference to this question.

Those who use Agriculture as a hobby-horse for political preferment, must prove that they are sincere, or they will receive the curses of an offended country, worse than the anathemas of the Church of Rome!

From the Soil of the South.

Pea Vine Hay---Its Culture and Mode of Saving.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—My experience upon the subject here introduced, which is solicited by you in answer to the enquiries propounded by the Editor of the *Southern Planter*, (T. G. Ruffin,) has not been prosecuted to the extent which would seem to merit the notice and attention your reference is calculated to impart to it. I have succeeded in making good hay—yet it is not an annual crop with me—such facts,

however, as have come under my observation are here submitted.

In the culture of the vine with a view to this object, the following considerations are worthy of being observed.

1st. The variety of pea to be planted.

2nd. The adaptation and preparation of the soil.

3rd. The exclusion of all other crops in its cultivation.

4th. The time of mowing, and method of curing the hay.

The black pea is the best variety for this purpose—producing a more luxuriant vine, and consequently more foliage.

Light, friable, or loamy land, well drained and thoroughly prepared, contribute most to its growth. It should be prepared by laying off rows $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, and breaking out into beds with long scooter plows immediately preceding the planting, which would be best not to be delayed in Virginia, beyond the 10th June. The furrow for the reception of the seed should be opened with a shovel plow in the centre of the bed, and the seed drilled in something thinner than garden peas are usually sown, and covered with a board or plow about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth. When the plants have attained to the height sufficient to be worked, plow them with a long scooter plow, running sufficiently near as to throw a little earth to the vines—to be followed by the hoe hands, removing what grass may be left about the plants. The future culture may be done by sweeps only, to be employed as occasion may require to keep them clean and the land light.

The plants should be mowed when in full flower, this being the maximum point in which the nutritious matter is most fully distributed to the vines. If delayed beyond this period, the saccharine juices disappear in the perfection of the seed, the foliage drops off in curing, and the vines become hard and woody.

To preserve the nutritious matter and green color of the herbage (an important consideration in curing hay) the dews as well as too much sun, must be guarded against. In the afternoon of the day, the mowing has been commenced in the morning, gather up the swaths of what is mowed till 12 or 1 o'clock, and deposit in cocks 4 to 6 feet high, conical shape, and spread to the sun the second day when the dew has disappeared. The evening's mowing may be left in swaths until 10 o'clock the next day, if fair, when it should be turned over and cocked late in the afternoon. Repeat these operations of heaping and spreading while much

heat is generated in the cocks, which will not exceed three days, when it may be deposited in rail pens, or houses made of poles, or buildings slatted that will admit of a free circulation of air; and for every four feet in depth of vines, lay a floor of rails or poles, with a bearing at each end, until the receptacle is full, when a roof should be provided water tight.

A slight degree of fermentation renders the fibres of the plants more tender, and imparts to the hay a sweet taste, which is much relished by stock, but the hazard of arriving at the point desired is too great to warrant the experiment.

As dry food for milch cows, it stands pre-eminent, and is an essential element in the improvement of our lands.

Respectfully, B. A. SORSBY.
Columbus, Ga., 1856.

South Carolina Agricultural Society.

REGULATIONS OF THE FAIR OF 1856.

Individuals who will pay twenty-five dollars shall become Life Members of the Society, which entitles them to admission at all times to the Fair Grounds, to all future publications of the Society, and to compete for premiums without charge.

Individuals paying two dollars shall be Members for one year, and exhibit articles without further charge, and have free access to the Fair Grounds during Fair week. Ladies to exhibit articles free of charge.

On Tuesday of Fair week—the first day for examination by the Judges—persons will be admitted for one dollar. Tickets to be delivered to the gate-keeper on entering. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the charge for admission will be 25 cents.

The charge for admission of vehicles will be as follows:—Coaches, carriages, omnibuses, &c., the inmates paying for personal admission, \$1; buggies, 50 cents.

Children under twelve years of age, and servants, will be admitted with half tickets.

The pupils of Charitable Institutions will be admitted Free.

All Delegates from State Agricultural Societies, Mechanics' Institutes, Editors of the Southern States, Reporters, &c., will receive a ticket upon application at the Secretary's Office, which will admit them free of charge, and entitle them to the privilege of the Grounds during the Fair week.

RULES FOR EXHIBITORS.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

The Secretary's Office will be opened at Columbia on the 1st November, for the purpose of receiving entries.

Persons intending to become exhibitors at the next Fair are desired to forward their entries to the Secretary, A. G. Sumner, Columbia, S. C., after the 1st of November, which will greatly facilitate business, and prevent confusion in the Halls and on the Grounds of the Society, and disappointment to exhibitors, which is chiefly the result of delay.

All exhibitors at the Fair must have their animals or articles entered at the Secretary's office before taking them into the enclosure. All who intend to compete for the premiums of the Society, must have their articles on the ground, and entered at the Secretary's office, at or before five o'clock, on Monday evening, the 10th of November, without fail; so that they may be arranged in their respective departments, and in readiness for examination by the Judges on Tuesday morning, the 11th of November, at nine o'clock. *Animals* may be entered at any time previous to nine o'clock on Tuesday morning.

The regulations of the Society must be strictly observed by exhibitors, otherwise the Society will not be responsible for the omission of any article or animal not properly entered under its regulations.

No article or animal entered for a premium can be removed or taken away before the close of the Exhibition. No premium will be paid on animals or articles removed in violation of this rule. All articles and animals entered for exhibition must have cards attached, with the number as entered at the Secretary's office; and exhibitors, in all cases, shall obtain their cards previous to placing their articles or animals on the Fair Grounds.

All persons who intend to offer animals for sale during the Fair, shall notify the Secretary of such intention at the time of entry.

Special attention is required from competitors to the requisitions of the Society upon Field Crops, Horses, Cattle, Hogs and Sheep, Dairy and Household Department, Bacon, &c., for full written statements required under each department, as they are important to the Judges in the several classes before their final decision.

The Executive Committee will take every precaution in their power for the safe preservation of all articles and stock on exhibition, and will be responsible only for loss or damage that may occur during the Fair. They desire exhibitors to give attention to their articles, and at the close of the Exhibition to attend to their removal.

INSTRUCTION TO THE JUDGES, AND THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

The Committees selected for the next Annual Fair are requested to report themselves to the Secretary upon the grounds of the Society, on Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock, November 11th, 1856.

In no case must the Judges award a *special* or *discretionary* premium.

The Judges on animals will have regard to the symmetry, early maturity, thorough breeding, and characteristics of the breeds which they judge. They will make proper allowances for the age, feeding, and condition of the animals, especially in the breeding classes. They are required not to give encouragement to over-fed animals.

No stock of inferior quality shall be admitted within the Grounds; and if any shall by accident be admitted, a committee shall be appointed to examine and rule out such from the

Grounds.

The animals to which premiums shall be awarded, shall be led up for exhibition at the delivery of the premium, and so with other articles as may be convenient, and after or before the delivery of the premium, each animal, which shall have taken a premium, shall be designated by some badge of distinction, and led into the ring and around it for exhibition of its superiority and high quality to the assembled crowd.

N. B. No person whatever will be allowed to interfere with the Judges, during their adjudication; and any person who, by better or otherwise, attempts an interference or bias from misrepresentations with the Judges, will be excluded as an honorable competitor.

The Superintendents will give particular direction to all articles in their respective departments, and see that all are arranged as near as may be in numerical order, to lessen and facilitate the labors of the Judges in their examinations.

The Superintendents will attend each set of Judges in their respective departments, point out the different articles or animals to be exhibited; will attach prize cards to the articles, or flags to the successful animals after the Judges' reports shall have been made up and delivered to the Secretary.

The Judges will be expected, in all cases, to withhold premiums when the article or animal is not worthy, though there be no competition.

Animals receiving premiums of the Society at this exhibition will not be allowed to compete for prizes hereafter in same class.

FORAGE FOR STOCK.

There will be a Forage Master on the ground, who will furnish grain and forage at the market price, to the owners of stock.

Stalls will not be furnished upon the Grounds of the Society for unruly or dangerous animals, and such will be promptly excluded.

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

The Annual Address before the Society will be delivered on Wednesday, by Gen. D. F. Jamison, of Orangeburg.

AWARD OF PREMIUMS.

The premiums will be awarded from the Executive stand, at 10 o'clock on Friday morning.

SALE OF STOCK.

The Auction Sale of Live Stock will take place on Thursday, at 3 o'clock, P. M., but the animals sold cannot be removed from the grounds until the close of the Exhibition.

POLICE.

A well-regulated Police of the Society, aided by that of the city of Columbia, will be on the grounds during the entire Exhibition to preserve order.

All persons having business with the Society, or wishing information not here furnished, will address the Secretary, at Columbia, S. C.,

A. G. SUMMER,

Secretary and Treasurer.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S ROOMS. }

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 6, 1856. }

From the Edgefield Advertiser.

Wait for the Wagon!

MESSRS. COLTER & SCOOTER.—Gents: I don't know whether you will allow us, away down here is this "Independent Sovereignty," to be put in competition with you up-country folks, but I thought that as we have to pay double or triple *land tax*, down here, (I suppose for the accidental privilege of living below an imaginary line.) I would let you know that we are trying to make old mother earth disgorge herself the more freely in return.

I see through your paper, that "Piney wood," in the way of a crop, is *some*, and that "Cambrige" has given him "Jessy," but good old "Dark Corner" has *overshadowed* them both. I think however, that I can stick them all with my *Rowell*.

I have a little place on the Savannah—part upland and part bottoms, which, under the management of Mr. George R. Powell, last year, did the following, notwithstanding one-third of the crop in the bottom land was destroyed by the Summer freshets.

There were one hundred acres lowland and fifty acres upland planted in Corn, besides, a field of Oats, a patch of Potatoes, and one each of Turnips and Peas on upland and an abundance of Pumpkins made in lowgrounds.

The force employed in making the crop was seven hands, all told, and seven horses and mules, besides Overseer's horse.

The following crop was gathered:

4,400 bushels corn at 75 cts.,	\$3,200 00
40,00 lbs. Fodder at \$1.25 per hundred.	500 00
250 bushels Oats at 50 cts.,	125 00
50 do. Potatoes at 75 cts.,	37 50
15,000 lbs. shucks at 50 cts.,	75 00
75 bushels peas at 80 cts.,	60 00
30 loads Pumpkins at \$5 per load,	150 00
6,327 lbs, net Pork at 9 cts., sold for	569 43

Gross amount.....\$4,716 93

EXPENSES.

Interest on Captial.....	\$1190 00
Overseer's wages.....	250 00
Feeding and clothing Negroes.....	253 00
Do. 8 head horses and mules.....	600 00
Implements, Blacksmith's bill.....	35 50
Deduct.....	\$2,328 50

7(2,388 43

Net amount per hand.....\$341 20

Mode of cultivation:

Both lowlands and upland broken up deep with large two horse cast turning plough in the spring. Upland planted 4 by 5 feet, with

two stalks in every other hill, and 3 by 5 feet with one stalk. Low land 5 by 5 feet, with three and four stalks in each hill. Upland cultivated by three ploughings, with sweep, and lowland had one harrowing and two ploughings, with small wrought Allen Ploughs. Had no rain from 2d July until 18th August.

The upland yielded on an average per acre equal to the lowland, (exclusive of what was lost by freshets on the latter,) and was much heavier and finer corn. Used no guano, and only manured poor spots on upland, with cotton seed and stable manure. With the exception of about ten acres, the upland has been cleared from time immemorial.

We don't expect to get the Col's Watch—didn't try for that—only write this as a sort of accompaniment to "Piney Woods," "Jessey" and "Dark Corner." Like to be in good company. By the by send friend "O'Connor" down this way; if "Piney Woods" can't manage him, we will try and do it for him.

We have got the Grape Fever down in these parts somewhat. Expect that some of these days the Savannah will become as celebrated for fine wines as the Rhine in the "Faderland," about which time Cotton and Corn will be nowhere.

Yours truly,

PROGRESS

From the Rome Courier.

A short Chapter on Keeping Sweet Potatoes.

MR. EDITOR:—There being nearly a total failure, of the keeping the valuable esculent heading this article, this season, by cold weather; I am requested by a friend in your vicinity to give you for publication, the *modus operandi*, of my keeping.

I have now orders from all quarters, to send sweet potatoes and yams, for seed; offering any price. I should please to ask, from one to five dollars a bushels.

If our good people would take the *Southern Cultivator*, or some other good agricultural paper, and read it, and remembering what they read would see, what I have said on this subject, years ago not only what has been said on keeping sweet potatoes, but they can get the combined and condensed views of others on many such useful matters by practicing which, they would save *ten times* over, the price of these useful journals. Then as the last season has fairly tested, my plan over all others; as mine remained safe and sound. I suppose, I had not a dozen roots rotted, while all others, I can hear from, have rotted or badly injured by

the cold; therefore at a special call, for my simple plan, here it is—Take out of the ground not too soon after the frost kills the vines; and don't wait too long, so as to get them frost bitten. Dig in dry weather: have some *out-house*; some garret or some such house, not fit for any thing else, it makes no odds if it is a little open, if dry. Have a good strong plank floor, laid close, sprinkle a bed of cotton seed, a few inches thick; on this put your potatoes, piled up, as much as possible, without rolling down. Let them lay here and dry a few days, then cover the whole over with the same, (cotton seed) some eight or ten inches, and your potatoes will keep sound all the winter. How much more convenient and safe this plan. When you want to get to your *eating roots*, go to them; carefully open the seed; take out what you want, and put the seed back and all will be safe.

When you first cover leave no *air hole*, as some think they ought to have; you want to exclude the air entirely from them.

If this be of any service, it is at your command.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM.

Greensboro, Ga. March 24th. 1856.

N. B. The roof slope of an out building, even so low you can—but stand up in the centre will do, and you can make your pile the same shape as the roofing, and if it is 40 or 50 feet all the same, if you have the potatoes put in a long, continuous pile. Or if you have room in your gin-house, on any floor, very good, put them here but avoid putting in *basement* or *damp low rooms*, where most people seek to keep them, J. C.

Climate, Product and Health—North and South.

In the June number of DeBow's Review, Dr. E. H. Barton, of New Orleans, has published a very full and able paper upon this subject. The following extract exposes some popular fallacies.—*Laurensville Herald*.

"Instead of weakening us, as alleged, slavery adds greatly to our military strength as a nation. All warlike countries have been slave States. It furnishes the sinews by which war is supported. While other nations absolutely require from five to eight men to carry on industrial pursuits to maintain one in the field, nearly our whole white male population, already trained to arms and warlike pursuits in a degree far exceeding that of any other people, is ready for defensive or offensive war; and neither our brethren north of us, nor any other nation can furnish a similar example of proud independence.

"The South is accused of weakness, inde-

lence, and effeminacy. The strongest and largest animals known to man have their naivities, their homes in the South. No Northern man has a physical strength or physical endurance superior to the Kroomen on the coast of Africa, nor can bear a greater burden than the Mexican; and in relation to our own country, I have before referred to the physical perfection and intellectual superiority of the natives in the elevated parts of these Southern States. The comparison with any people will hold good if applied to any portion of them. *Indolence* does not belong to the Anglo-Saxon race, however it may attach to others, and finds its refutation in every page of our history, and on every acre of our territory. The accusation of *effeminacy* is a slander that finds its answer in every field of our country's victories, and on the deck of every naval battle, where the prowess of America has shed its blood for the rights of man.

"In nothing, then, need the South shrink in comparison with the Northern portion of this Union. Not only has it been built up and enriched by the products of Southern industry, but some of the principal nations of the world are dependent on the Southern States, not only for their commercial but their social existence and stability. Here, in fact, resides the goose which lays the golden eggs; here is the fountain which originates the wealth of modern nations, and especially of the Northern part of this nation. Her merchants, her manufactures, her shipping her seamen, all derive employment and wealth from these much slandered Southern States. A hurricane, or a late or early frost that destroys the cotton crop of a considerable portion of the South, is felt in all the markets of the world to the extremest range of civilization. Drought or floods, which materially injures the cereal crop, causes gaunt famine to stare millions in the face, and becomes the harbinger of frightful pestilence.

"Nor are there any sound grounds for the opinion that the South is not as susceptible of a dense population as the North. The capacity to sustain a large population depends upon the productiveness of the soil for those articles which are necessary to support human life, and this has been shown by the extensive prevalence of its capacity to produce every species of the cerealia in such eminent profusion; and the question might be safely left. But there is scarcely an article that nourishes man which is not more easily and abundantly produced in the South than in the North. In the more Southern portion, where two crops of grain (as before said) can be produced every year on the same soil, and garden vegetables and fruit in the utmost abundance, they do not always exist of the same quality in the South as at the North, merely because we are not compelled to exercise the same care in their cultivation for a livelihood, and because the larger and more important staples are more profitable, and we have not to depend for sustenance or comfort on the minor productions, as those in less favored regions.

"In the South we are comparatively free from sectarian disagreements, no bigotry, no

ridiculous humbugs about women's rights, false philanthropy, or pseudo-religion; each attends to his own business, and is contented under the blessings a kind Providence showers upon us in such exhaustless profusion.

"If, then, we compare the soil and productions, agricultural and mineral, the climate and salubrity, the scenery, the comforts and refinements of life which give it a charm, the intellectual and moral qualities which give elevation in the scale of high civilization, those which produce its wealth and those which assure its independence, we have no reason to complain."

Cements.

Take the best glue, four ounces; of isinglass, two oz; dissolve these in mild ale over a slow fire in a common glaze-kettle, to the consistence of strong glue; when one ounce and a half of well-boiled linseed oil must be added, and the whole well incorporated by stirring.

To increase the strength of the glue, more isinglass may be added.

This cement is applicable to the joining of wood in every branch of manufactures, as also to joining earthenware, china, and glass—care being taken to press the parts well together and to allow them sufficient time to set.

The cement, when cold, and made into cakes assumes the appearance of India rubber, and like it, is elastic.

It may at any time, be dissolved in a proper iron or glazed earthen vessel, putting in a little mild ale, to prevent it burning at the bottom of the vessels. To cement leather together, for harness, bands for machinery, &c., apply the cement while hot, laying a weight upon each joint. Let them remain for six hours before using, and the joints will then become as firm as if one entire piece of leather.

Another is formed by adding to a solution of gum-ammoniac in proof spirit, some isinglass, and uniting them in a gentle heat. The cement is much employed by entomologists, in joining the dislocated parts of insects, for which purpose it is exceedingly convenient.

The joints of steam pipes may be fitted by placing between them cloths coated with a mixture of wheaten flour and the whites of eggs, made in the cold. This lute is hardened by the hot vapors.

Flour paste may be much improved in strength by incorporating powdered rosin while boiling. This paste binds to glass with great firmness. Its binding qualities may be improved by stirring in a small piece of wax.

It is said that a paste composed of beanmeal and water may be employed in closing letters, and that such closures cannot possibly be loosened by directing the steam of boiling water upon. —*Fen and Lever.*



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. VII., No. 7, : : : : July, 1856.

Come up the Country.

Come up the Country, instead of going to the North to spend your Summers.—Gentlemen wishing to purchase land in our section of the State, are referred to our advertisement of the Huger place, near Pendleton. The house thereon with a part of the out-buildings may be taken possession of and occupied the present summer, if desired, by a purchaser.

Water Power

Near the Blue Ridge Rail Road.—We own a shoal on Little River, at the mouth of Cane creek, in Pickens District, and convenient to the above Rail Road, with water sufficient for a Lowell Factory. On this shoal we have an excellent new Saw and Corn Mill, with an abundance of fine pine and oak timber, on a tract of 1200 acres of land, surrounding the shoal.—We desire to put up Wool Carding and other machinery, and would give a capable and energetic man with a small capital, a fair chance to invest in it as a co-partner.

"Uncle Sam's" Officers

Are not all doing their duty. We are frequently receiving complaints from our subscribers that they are not receiving their papers regularly. This we much regret, friends, but cannot help, except by sending you an additional copy. Your papers are regularly put up and sent from our office—but we fear there are men on the way who are fond of reading the paper, but not so fond of paying for it, and hence think it no great harm to take out one occasionally as they pass. To insure getting a full set of numbers, our liberal friend, Maj. CHAS. WARLEY, subscribed for two copies, one to be sent to his summer, and the other to his winter residence, Walterboro' and Ashepoo. He informs us he has not received a copy at the latter place since March. His copies are regularly put up, and must be stolen somewhere between Pendleton and Ashepoo. Now if we had no other similar case, we should not complain—but we have abundant reason to do so.

Cotton &c.

We call the attention of our planters to the article (p. 149), "How to get a stand of Cotton," by our neighbor J. W. CRAWFORD. Mr. CRAWFORD prac-

tices what he preaches, and is therefore good authority, not only in cotton planting, but in farm operations generally. We frequently passed a cotton field of his, on the Seneca, last spring, and were delighted to see his thorough and handsome preparation for planting—equal we concluded to our best garden work. We never have time to prepare cotton land so well; but we are not much of a planter, and although we have pursued the business on a small scale for many years, we have ever had a dislike to it as compared with farming. Mr. C. farms it principally in Pickens, but plants extensively and successfully in Abbeville district, and may with propriety be considered a model farmer and planter.

To Correspondents.

J. D. W., Centreville, Ga.—Thank you, friend W., if you are in the habit of making such "amends" for your "neglect," we would be pleased to be neglected by you every other year, if not oftner. The same to several other friends nearer home who have recently apologised with a list of new subscribers. We shall be well satisfied, and withal very thankful if every subscriber who has been a little tardy, will take the hint and do likewise.

Smut Machines.—A subscriber enquires for a smut, or other machine, that will effectually remove rat-dung from wheat. We are not aware that we ever saw such machine, but there are such no doubt, and if our subscriber had noticed the advertisement of Mr John Simpson, published in our paper from October to February last, he would there have found a notice of the very machine he wants, and that every other wheat-grower wants. The excrements of the rat is a short-ning that is not altogether palatable. The Montgomery Fan, and screen, which we advertise and are ordering many of for the South, is the most effective machine for separating rat-dung that we have tried—but even through that most searching department of the barn, the rascally mouse sometimes forces a passage.

The Crops.

The wheat crops were generally harvested within the last ten days, and so far as we have seen or been informed, have turned out much lighter than the last year's crops, especially on up-lands--bottoms are fair when not injured by rust. Oats on upland are very inferior. Corn and Cotton are at this time (June 24), suffering for rain, but are generally in good condition to receive and be greatly improved by it. Old corn plenty at 50 cents. Flour down to \$6.00 Wheat will open at \$1.00. The Rail Road is progressing—and upon the whole we have more reason to be thankful than to complain.

A highly esteemed friend of Union district in making his remittance, writes us in reference to the crops as follows:

"I have not heard this year of such wheat crops, in old Union, as we had the past. You will remember that Mr. Latham, of Union dis-

tract, averaged last year fifty-two bushels and a half *per acre*. This was the yield of seven acres. The land was *guanoed* for turnips, and he failing to get a stand, had wheat sown. My wheat, however, is very respectable; it is not thick enough to turn out so well as it would otherwise do, but the heads are remarkably heavy and fine. My corn crop is excellent. I have plenty of corn high as my head, and the best so high that I have to do pretty tall reaching to get to the top. My corn averages well. My oats are very good. So much for the cereals. My cotton is growing well and looks finely, and has size enough for the thirteenth of June. I have counted some half dozen forms to the stalk. I am better pleased with my prospects this year than ever before. I begin to think I can live and prosper by planting, in the chivalrous Palmetto State. Yours, very truly, D.

P. S.—Your views upon a *Wife*, I admire much—have you plenty of such in delightful Old Pendleton? I am a single man." D.

Yes, friend D., *we have*, as Bagwell said by the catfish, "lets on um," and as to *beauty*, Old Pendleton is proverbial. The fact is, friend D., most of our young ladies are taken off by strangers—and if you comply with a promise made a lady friend of ours, in Columbia last winter, to visit Pendleton this summer, I should not be surprised to hear of another going into Union.

For your kind and encouraging expressions relative to ourself and "bantling," accept our sincerest thanks. We receive many such testimonials of good will and appreciation of our humble services, which, more than pecuniary considerations, stimulates us to persevere in the good cause. We shall at all times be pleased to hear from you, and to have your "views upon agricultural topics."

Credit.—The Editor of the American Farmer, after politely excusing our former neglect to give credit, asks:—"But will he tell us, if the question is not impertinent, where he got the article in his present number headed, 'Management of a Stock of hogs?' Let him confess and we will forgive him again untill seventy times seven." Well, friend Sands, altho' we do not consider the question "impertinent," we cannot "confess" we got the article from you, nor can we now say *where* we did get it. On enquiry, our publisher informs us it was taken from a slip, cut as he supposed from a newspaper, without credit, and this is, to us, *proof positive* that we did not take it from the American Farmer—a paper the scissors are never allowed to touch, notwithstanding we extract freely from it, and we trust without being considered an intruder on its

columns,—*especially when giving due credit*, for we consider *all* our exchanges legitimate property with this proviso. And whilst on the subject we will further remark, that we do not, in making extracts from our exchanges, consider we are acting *dis-creditably* towards them. Not being so vain as to suppose we know more or write better than our cotemporaries—we think it a duty we owe our readers to make them a paper from the best materials in our reach, and hence, it is principally made up of original communication from our very competent and obliging corps of contributors, and selections from our excellent list of exchanges—and in making such selections according to our judgment of what is best for our patrons, we are surely *not* dishonoring the source from which they are taken. We are willing to "give and take," but if any of our brethren of the press are otherwise disposed, they have only to *hint* it to us, and we promise not to intrude, for we ask no favors that are inconsistent with the usages and courtesy of the corps editorial.

The leader in the April number of our excellent exchange, the "Working Farmer," by Prof. Mapes, is an article with which we are so much pleased that we have transferred it to our columns, believing that every reader of the Farmer and Planter will sustain us in our appreciation of the views and sentiments of the able writer. Unfortunately for our country at large, the interest of the great producing and sustaining class stands on about the same footing in Washington City as in many of our State Legislatures. Even our farmers and planters, when delegated by an overwhelming majority of the same class to represent them, are too apt to forget what their profession is at home, turn politicians, neglect their own and their constituents' interests, the paramount interest of the State, whilst all others of the minor importance are carefully watched after, and in many instances unduly sustained.

In order to show the little regard our own State has evinced to the agricultural and kindred interests in contradistinction to all others, we had intended here to make some extracts from Col. Marshall's Memorial to the last Legislature, in favor of an appropriation to our State Agricultural Society; but the pamphlet which was intended to be preserved, has been "hid away in the rubbish," and on making strict search "it is nowhere to be found;" but whilst searching for it in the bottom of our drawer, the following presented itself to us. It seems to have been written when our pen glided much more steadily than it now does; but we have not stated from where taken—not material, however, as the sentiments evidently have flowed from a pure source, and the writer or speaker seems to have looked forward to a time yet in the womb of futurity. May it have a speedy deliverance.

It will be impossible in a free land for the stupid and absurd notion that the seven-eighths of the people devo-

ted to the cultivation of the earth, should remain ignorant, while education is reserved for those devoted to the learned professions. It will be impossible when the ballot-box is in the hands of the farmers, for the emoluments and honors of government much longer to be concentrated in the hands of other professions. It will be impossible in a free land for those who pay nine-tenths of the public revenue to remain much longer quiet, and see annual thousands squandered in local and trivial legislation, while the great basis on which stands the public prosperity, is wholly neglected."

The article referred to above was selected and these remarks written before receiving the comments of our correspondent, Dr. L. B. Mercer, (at p. 163) on our endorsement of an article on the same subject and from the same source, which appeared in our May number. The strictures of our friend do not, however, deter us from publishing them. We are willing to admit that we are *not much of a politician*, as a gentleman of our State once said of his son being a lawyer, who was objected to as a candidate for the legislature on that account; but we have no objection to our readers, even the strictest constructionists, knowing our sentiments in regard to an agricultural department.

Reaping Machines.

Improvement is progressive notwithstanding "old fogyism," in farming as well as in politics. To Col. A. P. CALHOUN, is the honor due of introducing the first Reaper into the upper, or any part of the State, so far as we have been informed. We much regreted our inability to at end, with the other gentlemen invited to witness its operation on his barley crop. But we have since invited ourself to see another one, the same patent we believe, and brought in since Mr. C.'s, by Dr. ADGER, work in wheat. The land on which we saw the reaper operate, was unfavorable to good work—being a sandy bottom on which the wheat had been very roughly put in, and not rolled down. This rendered the work very laborious to two stout horses that were pulling the machine; yet, so far as the cutter was concerned, when the wheat stood well up, the work was fair—but we observed a considerable loss in the raking operation, which is about as laborious to the man who performs it, as to the horses that propel the machine. This machine is Manny's patent, and is probably equal to Hussey's or McCormick's, all of which are spoken highly of in parts of the country where they have been most used. They are considered by good judges to be labor-saving machines, and probably are so, on lands suitably prepared for them to operate. We are of the opinion, however, that most of us in the South lack two other machines to precede the Reaper: The first, a Stump Puller, and the second a Roller; the former to clear our lands

of stumps, and the latter to do the finishing job of putting in our small grain of every kind. On land thus prepared, we doubt not the Reaper will prove a valuable auxiliary to, if it does not altogether supersede the use of the sythe and cradle, the introduction of which, we well recollect, produced as much excitement, and met with as much opposition among the reep-hook men, as does now the Reaper from the cradlers.

We are informed Col. CALHOUN's Machine is operating well on his level Seneca bottoms; yet many improvements will have to be made before MANNY's can be considered a perfect machine. One very important, will be the attachment of a self-raker that will operate with ease and certainty; and another, the substitution of wrought, in place of cast irons, in a part of the machinery. This will insure additional strength, whilst it will lessen weight. More than one of the cast irons of Mr. ADGER's machine had been broken, and had to be substituted by wrought ones before we saw it, but a few days after it was put to work. A broader tread, which would prevent the wheels sinking so deep as to interfere with the machinery on light lands, would, we think, be a very important improvement.

"*The Wisconsin Family Messenger*."—We cannot exchange with you, Mr. Messenger. You smell too strong of the black amalgam. We desire to exchange with no such paper—better keep them north of Mason and Dixon's line.

A respected subscriber at Fairforest writes us as follows. It is not the first instance within the present year, of our friends making amends for a little neglect by sending one or more new subscribers. Our friend's suggestion is a good one, and we publish his letter that others seeing his good example may do likewise. We have no doubt that *every subscriber* we have, even those that have already done as much as we can ask them to do for us, might, with a little exertion, send at least *one* name to add to our present list of most respectable subscribers—and which if *they could do*, would render us as independent as we once heard a negro say he would be ("as happy as a lord") if his master (who he said gave him two ears of corn daily) would only allow him as much bread as he could eat. Such increased list would at least give us bread enough.

MR. EDITOR:—I enclose you three dollars—two of which are due from me for '55-'56. The other you will direct to ———. The only excuse I offer for not sending the amount due before this, is negligence. I make amends by sending a new subscriber. Success to the Farmer & Planter—cannot all the old subscribers get at least one new one. If they will try they can succeed. Yours, &c. T. G.

Newberry Agricultural Society.

We make the following extracts from the Newberry Mirror:

"The Newberry Agricultural Society will celebrate their Anniversary on Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th and 17th days of July next. The meetings will be held in the grove immediately below the Academy, and will begin at 10 A. M. each day. The President desires that there should be, on this the last occasion that he expects to preside over the meeting, a full attendance.

This Society has been one of the many objects to which he has looked for many years as likely to prove beneficial to the district. It has realized this expectation. The Agriculture of Newberry is superior to that of any other district in the State. The Society by the number and value of their reports and the zeal and activity of its meetings has given a character to the district, which is a cause of pride and hope to every citizen.

For seventeen years the President has been at its head, and ever at his post; he thinks he may now claim the indulgence of becoming a private. There are so many active and intelligent members, that he hopes a successor will be easily obtained. He therefore says "attend brother members and receive my resignation and farewell."

On the first day the stock and other articles intended for premiums will be shown, commencing at 10, A. M."

After the above we have a list of some fifty premiums in silver cups, none under the value of five dollars.

"Every thing of the Dairy or Orchard and Horticulture shown for a premium, will be considered as for the next day's repast."

This is an excellent idea. If we could do ourselves the pleasure of being present to participate with our friends of Newberry on the occasion, we should propose the health, in a good stiff bumper, to the gentleman who conceived it—but, we forgot that Judge O'Neill is to be there—well, we would drink it any how, if only in a bumper of Adams ale. We trust other societies will follow the good example set them by that of Newberry.

"A committee consisting of Jos. S. Reid, Daniel Goggans, J. P. Kinard, Richard C. Chapman and D. W. Reid, are charged with getting up a first rate farbecue, to be served up and eaten at 1 p. m., of Thursday, the 17th.

Committees on the following subjects, and consisting of the following gentlemen are raised, they will meet at Newberry, 1st Monday in July, consult together and report at the meeting; if the members do not meet, the chairman, the

first gentleman named, will make up the report. One half of the reports will be read Wednesday, the balance on Thursday."

Under this head we have 33 subjects, on which committees have been raised to report. We can only give the subjects. They are as follows: "Banks, Law and Lawyers, Physic and Physicians, Fish and Fish-ponds, Commerce, History, Health, Newberry District, Education; Orchards, Farming, The restoration and preservation of Land; Cultivation of Wheat, Corn, Cotton, Oats, Hay, Turnips, Potatoes; Raising and care of Stock; Rotation of Crops; Slaves, treatment, &c.; Horses, Mules, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep; Domestic Manufactures, Mechanic Arts; Industry compared with Genius; What ought to be the result of Legislation; The true hope of South Carolina."

We hope to give our readers many treats from these reports as the subjects are in able hands, such as we doubt not will do them ample justice.

"At 11 a. m., Thursday 17th, the anniversary address will be delivered by L. J. Jones, Esq.

Immediately after which, the cups awarded last year will be presented by the President. The Treasurer, Col D'Oyley, will be sure to have them ready."

The Society, now one among the oldest in the State, will, we are sure, much regret the retirement of its worthy President, Judge O'Neill, who intends relinquishing the chair, which he has so long occupied, (for the last *seventeen years*,) and "becoming a private."—But we trust in this humble station the Society may have his able councils yet many years.

Lotus Corniculatus.

Several persons have enquired of us what kind of seed are these sent me from the Patent Office? what is *Lotus Corniculatus*? As many of our readers may desire the same information, we extract from the "Farmer's and Planter's Encyclopedia," a description of the *Bird's-Foot Trefoil*, or *Clover*, as the *Lotus Corniculatus* is called in England. We have a description of four species of the *Lotus*, viz: *L. Corniculatus*, *L. major*, *L. Villosus*, and *tetragonolobus*. We give the first only, the seed of which is sent out from the Patent Office.—Ed.

BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL, OR CLOVER (*Lotus*).—The common name of a genus of plants that flourishes in a singular manner in the most exposed and dry situations. On bowling-greens and mown lawns it forms a fine green close herbage, even in hot seasons; and in meadow and pasture grounds it is frequently abundant. Its very strong deep tap root is the cause of its resisting drought. Smith describes four species: 1. Common bird's-foot trefoil (*L. corniculatus*), a perennial, flowering in the second week of June, and ripening the seed about the end of July, and successively to the end of autumn; common in open grassy pastures. (Pl. 9, g.) Some botanists have considered the following species (*L. major*) to be a variety of the *corniculatus*, but the difference between them is obvious at first sight; and this difference remains permanent when the plant is raised from seed, and cultivated on different soils. What renders a specific distinction here of most importance to the farmer, is the difference

which exists between them in an agricultural point of view. Heads depressed, of few flowers, not branching, somewhat woody; the fibres beset with small granulations; stems several, spreading on the ground in every direction, varying in length from three to ten inches, simple or branched. Flower stalks erect to recumbent, five times as long as the leaves, each bearing from two to five bright yellow flowers, dark green when dried, and they change to orange when verging towards decay. This species is recommended for cultivation, though under the erroneous names of milk-vetch and *Astragalus glycyphyllos*, by the late Dr. Anderson, in his *Agricultural Essays*, as being excellent for fodder as well as for hay. Mr. Curtis and Mr. Wood also recommended it. Linnaeus says that cows, goats and horses eat it; and that sheep and swine are not fond of it. With regard to sheep (says the late Mr. G. Sinclair, *Hort. Gram. Wob.* p 310), as far as my observations have extended, they eat it in common with the herbage with which it is usually combined. The flowers, it is true, appeared always untouched, and in dry pastures little of the plant is seen or presented to the cattle, except the flowers, on account of its diminutive growth in such situations. This, however, is nearly the case with white or Dutch clover; sheep seldom touch the flowers while any foliage is to be found. Mr. Woodward informs us that it makes extremely good hay in moist meadows, where it grows to a greater height than the trefoils, and seems to be of a quality equal, if not superior, to most of them. Professor Martyn observes, that, in common with several other leguminous plants, it gives a substance to hay, and perhaps renders it more palatable and wholesome to cattle. The clovers contain more bitter extractive and saline matter than the proper natural grasses, and the bird's-foot trefoils contain more of these vegetable principles than the clovers. In pastures and meadows, therefore, where the clovers happen to be in small quantities, a portion of the trefoil (*L. corniculatus*) would doubtless be of advantage; but it appears to contain too much of the bitter extractive and saline matters to be cultivated by itself, or without a large intermixture of other plants. It does not spring early in the season, but continues to vegetate late in the autumn. In irrigated meadows, where the produce is generally more succulent than in dry pastures, this plant cannot with safety be recommended, at least in any considerable quantity. It is more partial to dry soils than the next species (*L. major*); it attains to a considerable height when growing among shrubs, and seems to lose its prostrate or trailing habit of growth entirely in such situations.

A Certain and Speedy Cure for Dysentery.

In sending us a recipe for the cure of Dysentery, a friend writes as follows:

"I send below a recipe for the cure of common dysentery, which you can publish or omit as fancy leads you. I will only remark that I have repeatedly given it to my negroes and have never failed to effect a cure," however violent, in 24 to 36 hours, and what is more I never expect to fail.

RECIPE:—For a grown person give a good dose of salts combined with 15 drops of laudanum. During its operation give no other nourishment but an occasional cup of gruel. So soon as the bowels have been well operated on, which will be in the course of a few hours, give a teaspoon full (even full) of table salt, dissolved

in two table spoons-full of vinegar, and in three cases out of four the patient is cured. If, however, there are symptoms of return the next day, repeat the practice and the trouble is ended.

H. H.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Agricultural Department of the General Government---Strictures, &c.

MR. EDITOR:—In the May No. of the Farmer and Planter you copy, approvingly, from the *Working Farmer*, remarks from Professor Mapes, urging the farmers to demand of the National Authorities, "an agricultural department of equal dignity with the other departments of the government." "We are the only nation," says he, "whose government is without a department devoted to Agriculture. The farmers have a right to, and should claim, the appointment of a Secretary of agriculture, bearing even rank with the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, &c., who should be a Cabinet officer, and whose department should be so organized as to render every new truth discovered in agriculture, the common property of all. We should no longer be put off with a clerk subordinate to a Bureau officer, and located in an obscure corner of the Patent Office."

I was aware that some portion (and I fear a large one,) of the Northern people have such a purpose in view; because, petitions in favor of such an object, have been presented to Congress, from time to time from that section; but I confess to a feeling of surprise and regret to see the scheme endorsed by a Southern Agricultural Journal. I have often been amazed at the ignorance of constitutional limitation, manifested by, even, distinguished men of the North. The case before us is directly in point. I am unwilling to fan the fires of hatred and malevolence which already burns so fiercely in the two sections, and I therefore readily allow that the Northern people are honest and conscientious, and would not wilfully violate their constitutional obligations except in so far as they are blinded by envy and passion on another question. It has puzzled me to account for this general ignorance in that section of our organic laws, but I have concluded that it originates in the fact that the North is the majority section and can take care of their own interests, and hence they set little or no value upon the constitution. Indeed it does not protect, but restrains them from doing some things they would gladly do. Hence their indifference, not to say dislike of this sacred Instrument. Prof. Mapes I dare say never read the Constitution: certainly he never read it attentively with reference to this measure of an Agricultural De-

partment; for, if so, he could not urge the Government to a step which it has not the shadow of authority to take. Does he, or does he not know, that ours is a limited government, limited to the express grants of power in the organic law, with incidental authority to do whatever is necessary to execute them. [He will search the constitution in vain for any grant of power, either direct or implied, to organize such a department, or even to justify a "Clerk of Agriculture in an obscure corner of the Patent Office," to which he sneeringly alludes.] The 8th section of the 1st article of the Constitution, enumerates the powers of the Congress, and amongst them authorizes it "to promote the progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." This is the unsubstantial foundation upon which the present Agricultural Clerkship is built, and is that, of course, upon which it is proposed to erect "an Agricultural Department of equal dignity with that of Secretary of State." In the name of our venerated fathers, I protest against so shameful a violation of the sacred compact under which we live as a nation. It has been a cherished fancy with me, that Providence mercifully concealed this continent from the knowledge of mankind, in order that, in these last ages we might have a fair field on which to re-construct society on a new and better basis. The chief ingredient in this better foundation is a *Written Constitution* clearly defining the powers of government and the rights of the people. Such a Constitution our fathers framed. Let it be disregarded, violated, and trampled under foot, and, I do not think it extravagant to say, that the last hope of man is swept away. Especially is it the interest of the South to see to it, that it is observed to the nicest punctilio; for it is the only panoply that has and will protect us from intolerable oppression, or revolution. As the minority section it is invaluable—it is everything to us. Let us therefore not wink at the slightest violation of it, even for a good object. "From day to day the fatal precedent will plead." Aye! it is the fatal precedent of the *Agricultural Clerkship*, "in an obscure corner of the Patent office," that now pleads for an "Agricultural department of equal dignity with that of Secretary of State." [But it would not be expedient if it was Constitutional, to establish such a Department. Mankind have been governed to death in all the past ages. Governments have usurped the guardianship of the people,

and assume to direct their pursuits and regulate their industry; whilst the latter, with their spirit and self reliance crushed out, look imploringly up to their perfidious guardians.] This, more than any other cause, has stayed the substantial progress of the world. The true office of government is, to protect us in our persons and property, and leave all else to individual or voluntary associated effort. The patent office Report, annually sent out by the Government, is a valuable book; but is produced at a ruinous cost to the people of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The same work could be done better by private enterprise for a tithe of the money. [The Agricultural Department, if organized, would add to the splendor of the overshadowing central Government at the expense of the people. It would be controlled by the majority section for their own special benefit, whilst we of the South would continue to *hew wood and draw water*. Nay, nay. I have only one prayer to offer to the Government, and that is, *protect me and let me alone*.]

Respectfully yours,

L. B. MERCER.

Chenuba, Terrell Co., Ga., May 24, '55.

REMARKS.—Though we differ from our esteemed correspondent, we publish his communication against the establishment of an Agricultural Department by the general Government, in order that both sides of this important subject may be presented to our readers.—We also publish in this issue, another article on the other side of the question. Judge ye!

We shall not pretend to enter into the Constitutional argument on the question. Such a variety of views and constructions are held as to the true meaning and intent of the Constitution, that it is difficult to decide, and even our greatest men and ablest Constitutional lawyers differ widely on many important points. As a general rule, we incline to a rigid construction of the Constitution. We belong to the strictest sect of the State-rights school in politics, and are disposed to guard against every encroachment of the general Government upon the rights of the States as well as its assumption of powers that do not belong to it.

But when it is proposed to establish a department in the general Government, to foster and patronize the important interest of agriculture, we confess we cannot see the harm that will result from it. It is the most important—the paramount interest of our great country. And as we stretch our arms over such an immense territory, reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific on the one side, and the gulf of Mexico to Canada on the other, embracing such a variety of soil, climate and productions, we are obliged to remain for a long time to come, essentially an agricultural people. Shall it be said that this great interest, scattered over such an immense country, and furnishing, not only the means of comfort and subsistence to nine tenths,

of our growing population, but sending annually millions of our productions to feed and clothe the starved and naked people of other countries, needs not the fostering care of our Government and cannot receive it, because, forsooth, the express grant is not found in the Constitution, is strictly for rigid construction more closely than we are disposed to do. All other interests in society have received a large share of the patronage of the general Government, whilst agriculture has been the pack-horse on which almost the whole burden and expense of the Government has been thrown. The Manufacturing interest has been built up at our expense, whilst we have remained "hewers of wood and drawers of water," not only for the government, but to all other classes in society. We protest against such palpable injustice, and claim a portion at least of the patronage of our Government.—ED. F. & P.

For the Farmer and Planter.
BERMUDA OR JOINT GRASS.*

MR. EDITOR:—I have been acquainted with this grass for a number of years. From the accounts I had heard of it, I was determined to keep clear of it. The first I noticed on my place was a patch of a few feet in diameter, in a cotton field. The direction was to turn and not plow near, so as to scatter it. At wheat thrashing, a cart load of straw was hauled and carefully tramped down on it, so as to cover around the edges completely, say one foot thick. This has been several years ago, and I have seen no more of that patch of Joint Grass.

In 1851 I came in possession of an old plantation very much infested with this grass. Many acres of the finest creek bottom had not for years produced anything like a crop, and the ditches and branches were in some instances blocked up with it. In February, 1852, this land was thrown into beds with the common one horse twisting shovel. This was very badly done, but sufficient to make out the beds. About the 20th April, the beds were reversed, and now the water furrow between the beds was tolerably clean, and there the corn was planted. The crop received the usual cultivation, except two good hoeings in the place of one. At the last plowing the land was sown with peas, about one-third of a bushel to the acre. The yield not measured, but better than it had been for years. This land has been in corn every year since, the same course pursued, except one bedding in the place of two. good yields every year, the land no harder to cultivate than any other land of the same quality, and I believe the large crop of pea vines left on the ground is annually improving it, although planted in corn every year, and pastured to stock of all kinds after the corn is gathered. One more experiment and I have done. A field of thin, post- oak land had not been cultivated for three or four years on account of the Joint Grass taking almost entire possession. In the winter of 1853 and '54, it was torn up as well as it could be, (which was bad enough,) with bull tongues, (or scooters, if you like the name better,) at the usual time it was bedded and planted in cotton, the cultivation was difficult, but the yield a fair one. In 1855 this land was sown in

oats—the crop a heavy one. From the way the land plows this spring, I believe the trouble of the grass may be considered as over. I believe shade has been a principal instrument in destroying the grass in all these trials; and I also think the freezing of the land after early plowing, has assisted in killing it, and the thick shade of the pea vines in the bottom corn, and a heavy coat of weeds and grass on the up-land after the oats in August and September preventing it from maturing, subjected it to be farther destroyed by the winter frosts. This is mere conjecture, however, the facts are as stated, and may prove successful with others, as with me.

T.
P. S. I have seen it stated somewhere that Bermuda makes the best of winter pastures. Will you or some of your readers let us know how it is to be managed for that purpose, as I have lost all fear of it in lands regularly cultivated, and as we cannot get rid of it about fences and ditches, I would willingly make it do as good service in some way.

T.
*Our correspondent seems to consider the Bermuda and Joint Grasses the same. If so, he is much mistaken. The former matures no seed—the latter does, and in distressing abundance, and to the great annoyance of those who are so unfortunate as to have it on their farms. When eaten by stock, much of it passes through them uninjured, and just ready to spring up wherever dropped, or from the manure hauled out from the stables and cow lots.—ED.

WATER FOR CALVES.—"Accident," says a correspondent of the Ohio Cultivator, "recently taught me what, till then, I did not know, viz: that calves while fed on milk, need free access to water. I had supposed the milk (consisting of their entire food) was enough without water. But in changing my calves from one pasture to another they passed a water trough and drank heartily. I acted on the hint and have since supplied them, and find they need water as often as older cattle. No day passed without their using more or less."

CURE FOR GARGET IN COWS.—Wash the udder with salt water twice a day, and it will generally disappear. If the case is obstinate and has been neglected, Garget* Root or Crowbery, given a few times, will effect a cure.

* Poke root one inch in diameter, by 4 long at a time.

POSTAGE ON SEEDS.—The charge of letter rates of postage on packages of seeds, 3 cents per half ounce, instead of book postage—a cent an ounce—or even still more moderate terms—is equally unjust and injurious to the interest of farmers. An instance of this has just come to our notice: A, in Pennsylvania, writes to B in this city to send him, for fifty cents enclosed, as much of a particular kind of corn as he can, and prepay the postage on it. The price of the corn being fifty cents a quart, B weighs this quantity and finds the postage would be as market reports say, \$1.75 a \$2. He then tries a pint, half a pint, &c. &c., until finally, he is obliged to send eight cents worth of corn for forty-two cents worth of postage!—Edgefield Advertiser.

LIST OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED.

NAMES.	POST OFFICES.	AMOUNT.
John Smith. Mt. Gallagher, (vol. 6)	S. C.,	1.
Maj T M Young, Young's Store,	"	1.
Capt O P Carson, Brushy Creek,	"	1.
R S Ferguson, Reynosa, (Club)	"	5.
Jas D Willis, Centreville,	Ga.,	5.
Dr Wm D Walton, "	"	
Rev J H Milner, Zebulon,	"	
Col R J Willis, Greensboro,	"	
Lewis B Willis, Danburgh,	"	
J P Johnson, Philomath,	"	2.
Hon J L Norwell, Charleston, (vol. 6 & 7)	S. C.,	
David Bush, Four Mile Branch, (vol. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.)	"	6.
G W Nixon, Rocky Pond,	"	2.
B F Buckner, Robertsville,	"	1.
Chas Jaudon, "	"	1.
Geo M Rhodes, Lawtonville, (vols. 7, 8, 9 & 10.)	"	4.
G Rhodes, Lawtonville,	"	1.
T P Ravenel, Black Oak, (vol. 6)	"	1.
Amasa Russell, Pineville,	"	1.
Jas Parler, Holly Hill,	"	1.
Col J M Shingler, Holly Hill,	"	1.
Col J S Shingler, " "	"	1.
Jacob Linder, Poplar,	"	1.
Wm A Moorecock, Beaufort,	"	1.
Wm Tripp, Sr., "	"	1.
M & Livingston, Friendship,	"	1.
Dr D D Graves, Charleston,	"	1.
Capt C W Graves, "	"	1.
Capt C Gage, Unionville,	"	1.
Capt R P Haynesworth, Brewington, (vol. 6.)	"	1.
Capt Thos Gist, Fair Forest, (vols. 6 & 7.)	"	2.
Dr J R Sparkman, Georgetown,	"	1.
E F Gurrard, "	"	1.
S Magwood, Charleston,	"	1.
Ed. Barnwell, Jr., Charleston,	"	5.
Maj A Jones, Leesville,	"	1.
Col W S Dogan, Cross Anchor,	"	2.
Jas Q Roseman, Lowndesville,	"	1.
Rev Benj D DuPre, Powder Springs, (vol. 8.)	Ga.,	1.
H Thornton, Tampico, (vol. 5.)	Miss.,	1.
J L Springs, Charlotte,	N. C.,	1.
J H Luther, Warren,	R. I.,	1.
Wm Gavin, Newnansville,	Fla.,	1.

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